

Claims

- [c1] 1.A computer system comprising:
a chassis, having a plurality of slots thereon each configured for receiving
one of a plurality of planar shaped circuit cards therein;
a shroud coupled to said chassis to form an enclosure about said plurality of
planar shaped circuit cards;
said plurality of planar shaped circuit cards each configured for providing an
independent dedicated server function; and,
each of said plurality of planar shaped circuit cards being configured so as to
be free from any direct communication connection with any inter-card
system bus inside said enclosure.
- [c2] 2.A system of claim 1 wherein said plurality of planar shaped circuit cards
comprises a first card providing an email server function; a second card
providing a web server function; and a third card providing a file storage
function.
- [c3] 3.A system of claim 1 wherein power is provided to said plurality of planar
shaped circuit cards by a sole power supply.
- [c4] 4.A system of claim 1 wherein said plurality of slots comprises a plurality of
industry standard slots, each of which is configured for mechanical and
electrical cooperation with one of said plurality of planar shaped circuit cards
via an industry standard expansion slot.
- [c5] 5.A system of claim 4 wherein said plurality of industry standard slots are
ISA slots.
- [c6] 6.A system of claim 4 wherein said plurality of industry standard slots are
PCI slots.
- [c7] 7.A system of claim 4 wherein said industry standard expansion slot includes
a plurality of traces, all of which, except for those traces dedicated to
provision of power, are unused by said plurality of planar shaped circuit
cards.

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- [c8] 8.A system of claim 7 wherein said plurality of planar shaped circuit cards comprises a first card providing an email server function; a second card providing a web server function; and a third card providing a file storage function.
- [c9] 9.A system of claim 8 wherein power is provided to said plurality of planar shaped circuit cards by a sole power supply.
- [c10] 10.A system of claim 9 wherein said plurality of industry standard slots are PCI slots.
- [c11] 11.A method of providing computing functions comprising:
providing a chassis having a power supply and a plurality of industry standard expansion slots;
providing a first industry standard expansion card, which is dedicated to providing a first single server function;
providing a second industry standard expansion card, which is dedicated to providing a second single server function;
providing a single common source of power for said first industry standard expansion card and said second industry standard expansion card;
providing a dedicated communication line from said first industry standard expansion card to an external connector;
providing a dedicated communication line from said second industry standard expansion card to an external connector;
prohibiting direct communication from said first industry standard expansion card to a system bus extending between said plurality of industry standard expansion slots; and,
prohibiting direct communication from said second industry standard expansion card to a system bus extending between said plurality of industry standard expansion slots.